

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New dependent claims 12-17 have been added. Claims 3, 4, 10-17 are therefore presently pending in the case.

II. Support for the Amended Claims

New Claim 12 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 12 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original Claim 3 on which it depends.

New Claim 13 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 13 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original Claim 4 on which it depends.

New Claim 14 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 14 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original Claim 10 on which it depends.

New Claim 15 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 15 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original Claim 10 on which it depends.

New Claim 16 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 16 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original Claim 11 on which it depends.

New Claim 17 has been added to more clearly claim aspects of the invention. Claim 17 finds support throughout the specification and sequence listing as originally filed, with particular support being found in original Claim 11 on which it depends.

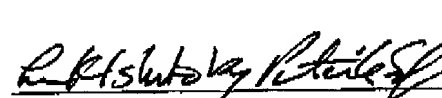
As new dependent claims 12-17 are fully supported by the specification, sequence listing and claims as originally filed, they do not constitute new matter. Entry is therefore respectfully requested.

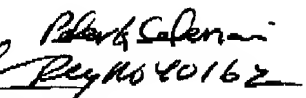
III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner Gucker have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

January 20, 2004
Date


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